



THE JACG NEWSLETTER

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THE JERSEY ATARI COMPUTER GROUP

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FEBRUARY 1992

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well, I think this was a very close call this month as to whether this would be the first newsletter under my jurisdiction to be late. In fact, as I write this, I'm still not sure it won't be. But I trust the good officers and people of the JACG to get this issue out in a pinch.

Turns out on very short notice, I was offered an all-expenses trip out to California by a nationally shown television program and although it was newsletter producing weekend, those are the kind of offers that are hard to turn down!

So, also at the last second I had to call every officer and tell them I needed their articles a week early to make the deadline. Despite the short notice on my part, *EVERY* officer got their column to me on time. Reliable Joe Hicswa's article, of course, was already in hand since he always gets his in nice and early for me.

So the lesson (if you get this on time!) is that if we all pull together, we all win, every member of the club! Not just officers. You get a nice newsletter produced on time (with still too little member input) and I get to go to California for the first time ever! Bon Voyage! See you next month!

DAVE

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT MEETING:

March 14th, 1992

10:00 AM TO NOON

FLEA MARKET Before Meeting

Software Spectrum

386 Somerset Street
North Plainfield, New Jersey
07060

Telephone: (908) 561-8777

Hours: Monday through Saturday
10:00 am to 7:00 pm

closed Sundays

ATARI software and hardware at competitive prices.
Accessories and IBM software and hardware also available.

Many items sale priced - discount to JACG members.

GENERAL FEATURE

'PREZ'ING MATTERS

by Ed Salvesen, President JACG

For loyal members who wondered when we would reach a membership crossroads, it is NOW! Please note:

Last month, I was heartened when the club gained two (to 62), but February will tell the big story because we have TEN (that's 1/6th) of our membership up for renewal and another 11 in March and April! So, by the April 11 meeting, fully 1/3 of the JACG will comment (however tacitly) on their feelings toward our present state of affairs by their renewals or lack of same.

For those who renew, I give the club's heartfelt thanks and promise that we will try to earn that \$25 by providing new slants on ATARI usage despite total abandonment by 'you know who'!

For those who do not renew: I will not question your reasons or opinions; but I WOULD like to suggest something that may be mutually beneficial in the long term: If you are planning to sell all of your ATARI equipment, (and the market has to be slim) remind potential buyers of the existence of the JACG. It can only HELP, and by doing so, you may sell your equipment to a future member. This way, we both benefit; you by enhanced salability and the club by potential replacement members.

If, after expiration date, you have still not sold, don't forget the club has temporary memberships that, for \$5, allow anyone to be a member for that month, get a newsletter, sell at the 'flea market', and hold an option to join or renew the following month for regular dues MINUS the temporary fee(s) paid (you get a temporary card). This helps if you have a lot of software to sell. (Assumedly, there is a problem selling hardware to people

who, by definition, already own ATARI hardware.)

Now, changing the subject, I must ASK attendees for some help. I know why most people are reticent. Who wants to say they'll do a favor only to find out that it becomes their job? Here's the deal: When enough people hold true to that, there will be no more demos, no more meetings, no more CLUB! All I ask is that, since demos can't take place until equipment is set up, could you please lend a hand (without obligation to even attend the next meeting...If it's raining, who wouldn't help set up the tent)?..if you know what I mean. Ofcourse, we need help removing it after the meeting. Please PLEASE!

I mentioned the double deck, four hand pinochle game on a recent ST DOM and one sold, immediately! I'll mention STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION was released on a January 8-bit DOM as ENTRPRIS. It's the game I wrote about, back in October, in which all references to the old crew were replaced by the present crew AND, I created a help function (from 'Q') because the game's programming tends to make it too formidable for many inexperienced players, early on.

It is in LISTABLE BASIC, so you can get into the programming (after copying) and make enhancements as I did (but it uses all 32K of BASIC so you'd have to remove other items, byte for byte).

In an effort to spur disk sales, I am ordering, subject to EXCOMM approval, all library disks to be sold at DOM prices to MEMBERS (full & temporary) next month (MARCH), sort of a Spring cleanout sale.

Prices of \$2 for 8-bit and \$3 for 16-bit can't be beaten. Tell non-members to purchase the \$5 option, mentioned earlier. They'll save \$4 on the first disk AND get a newsletter, too! It's worth it!

Till next month.....

16 - BIT FEATURE

THE JACG ST VP's COLUMN *by John H. Dean, 16-bit VP JACG*

Thank you, Joe Roborecky, for the fine demonstration of Multidesk Deluxe that you did for us at the January meeting. And thank you also for the help in setting up the ST equipment. Since ST Disk Librarian Dave Noyes was in Laredo, Texas, instead of out front selling disks, I was sitting in for him, and couldn't be in two places at one time.

And thank you, Ed Salvesen, for going out to Dave's house in Long Valley and picking up the Disk Library for me. From what you told me you saved me a lot of driving over sleet slick roads to get there from Sussex County.

The JACG user group is going to get two (2) copies of PageStream Vers. 2.1 from Soft-Logik! We are participating in a support program designed specifically to create product awareness and keep groups informed of current product releases from Soft-Logik.

To become qualified for this unique program, a user group must send in a written request consisting of information about the group (how many members, when was the group established, etc.), the group's most current news letter, in addition to a previous copy of a newsletter, address information and the group's contact. (This has been done by President Ed Salvesen) In return, they also ask that Soft-Logik's name be added to the mailing list for future newsletters.

Soft-Logik can supply the group with two complete copies of the program and a demo PageStream. The two complete programs must be distributed in the following way:

A. One of the PageStream programs must be either raffled, sold or given away as a door prize to a meeting attendee.

B. The second PageStream program can be reviewed by the user group and possibly help with the production of group newsletters and flyers. User Groups will receive a registration card pre-marked "User Group".

We will receive a single upgrade of PageStream when newer versions are released, provided the registration card is returned.

The recipient of the PageStream raffled off will have to register their copy with Soft-Logik and upgrade fees will charged when necessary.

The demo version of PageStream that the user group receives can be placed in group's library. The demo program will not be able to save documents and will print out the words "PageStream Demo" across all printed pages.

The only fly in the ointment of all this is that apparently we received an earlier copy of PageStream at the address "8 Crescent Road, Pine Brook NJ" back in 1988 or 1989 which was never registered with Soft-Logik. I spoke with them over the 'phone about getting the new version and they brought this previous non-registration up. But they sent me the application forms which I turned over to Ed., and perhaps everything will out O.K. I certainly hope so, for the club's sake.

It so happens that I had already purchased PageStream Vers. 2.1, so you can look forward to a review of it in a future issue of the JACG newsletter.

We missed you at the meeting, Dave. We hope you had a successful trip to Laredo. Now I know personally what the responsibility is when you have to be at the auditorium early enough to

get the security guards to open up, and if you are not there, it won't be done. Thanks again for all the yerars you have been doing it.

8 - BIT FEATURE

2 BITS FROM 8-BIT VP **by Joseph E. Hicswa - JACG**

Helllooo to all you ATARI 8-bitters. This is Joseph, your 2-bit, 8-bit VEEP coming to you via ATARI 8-BIT and JACG newsletter to tell you all about our January meeting. If you weren't there, you blew it kiddo. There were bargains, a freebee box of goodies and a pile of door prizes. I got an OKADATA PRINTER, a Basic Programming primer and TI computer system including monitor, two drives, manuals and disks. How about that! Officers made clear, cheerful reports and demos were finely done: 8-bit by Phil Greenhut, 16-bit by Joe Robecky. The end-of-meeting doorprizes were plentiful. EVERYBODY, and I mean EVERYBODY got at least one prize.

The lobby was cordoned off because of repairs being made but that did not deter us from our meeting. JACG member-resourcefulness prevailed. We improvised. Tables were put along rear auditorium wall and business conducted from there, including newsletter distribution, dues payments and signing up new members.

It was good to see 8-bit Librarian Sam Cory and Assistant Librarian Bill Garmany Jr., both of whom are recovering from hip accidents. Sam made a good selection for JANUARY 8-BIT DISK(s) OF THE MONTH--three disks. WORD-, GRAPHIC-, and SPELL-MAGIC, a word processing program with GRAPHICS and SPELL check on two of the disks: J-241D & J-242D. The program written by Jim Thompson was previously released through now defunct ANTIC. Member Phil Greenhut personally contacted Mr. Thompson for permission to add his program into our JACG Public Domain

Library. Thank you Mr. Thompson and Phil Greenhut. Phil later gave us a demo of what WORDMAGIC can do. It is one WOW of a program. If you haven't yet got your copy, see 8-bit assist librarian Bill Garmany at next meeting.

Sam Cory described WMAGIC in his January, Newsletter Article. NOTE: Before running the program, put write protect tabs on the disks, make back up copies then READ THE DOCS!

Word Magic was written to utilize the 130XE ramdisk. (I was able to run it on my 65XE. First ATARI DOS 2.5 was booted into the XE. DOS menu L was selected followed by D1:WMAGIC.OBJ). Later during the meeting Mr. Greenhut said he has versions for both ATARI 400 and 800. If anyone wants a copy, please see Phil at next meeting (Phil's phone is listed in Sam Cory's Jan. Newsletter article on page 6), or contact me via address and phone number on rear page of this newsletter.

The third Sam Cory selected 8-bit Disk of the Month (DOM) J-243D contains outstanding games:

LASTTRUM.BAS (a card game similar to whist (bridge). To select cards, push stick forward for YES, pull back for NO then press trigger. Use stick and trigger to move cursor and activate commands.

TNGDOCS.BAS Documentation for TREKTNG.BAS. READ IT! The DOC does print a hardcopy (I felt more comfortable using my First Xlent WP).

TREKTNG.BAS A starship space mission. To survive, study the DOC. (Pres. Ed. Salvesen did an up grade on this one. THANK YOU ED. You did a fine job).

YATZ .BAS A six-die dice game. Play by yourself or against an opponent. Press trigger to remove a die under cursor. Re-press trigger if you change your mind. Use stick to position cursor over score card or any die to be changed. Push stick forward to roll

the dice.

GINRUMMY.BAS Card game played against computer. No docs but game is easily understood and learned. The computer is one good player. I haven't won a game yet!.

There are two ARC files on back side. To unarc and run these programs you will need JACG 8-bit disk J190. (See Bill Garmany) at next meeting.

(An inquiry was made about a pinnocle game for the 8-bit. Is such a game available? Please let me know. A nursing home resident can enjoy it during his terminal years).

President Ed Salvesen mentioned at the meeting and in his January newsletter article about CARTDUMP, a PD program that copies ATARI BASIC CARTRIDGE (rev.A) to disk on the 8-bit 400/800. Perhaps he will donate a copy to our club library. If you're a 400 or 800 owner, speak to Ed at next meeting. He's a nice guy.

Ed also mentioned that GEMINI in Morristown is selling out their ATARI inventory at 50% discount. JACG members who show their card pay no more than \$10 for any item. If the 50% is less than \$10 you pay the lower price. Call (201) 267-0988 as Gemini is only opened several hours Friday and Saturday.

NOTE: GEMINI'S stock is limited, the hours erratic. We also have two fine ATARI stores who advertise in our newsletter: SOFTWARE SPECTRUM (North Plainfield) and DEPENDABLE PARTS INC. (Chatham). Look at their ads, give them a call, pay a visit to learn how they can help you with your needs--software, hardware, repairs. Let them know you saw their ad in our newsletter! There's no obligation when you shop or inquire--just be friendly--JACG friendly.

In Sam Cory's January newsletter

article he mentions two 3-D programs for the 8 bit by Palette Imaging Inc of Closter, N.J. Man, if Sam says those programs are great, you better believe it. Read his article for details, address and price.

I've heard moans and groans about lack of support from commercial ware writers implying not enough programs for ATARI 8-bit. Well have you read Editor Arlington's January newsletter article 8-bit feature BLAST FROM THE PAST (page 8)? He lists two pages of outstanding Public Domain programs for our 8-bits.

Some commercial software writers and manufactarers who left us might have a legitimate complaint about not making much money from Atari owners. They probably make more money from people who can afford expensive computers. Me, I'm cheap. I can't afford expensive computers or high priced software on my limited, social security income. Maybe other ATARI owners are cheap like me because of their low incomes. For us, ATARI is affordable--POWER WITHOUT THE PRICE! I'm having lots of fun and accomplishing everything I need and want with my affordable ATARI 8-bit.

Dave Noyes was sorely missed at the January meeting. After reading his article NEWSLETTER MAILING(S) in January newsletter I wanted to personally say, "THANK YOU MR. DAVID NOYES for delivering our newsletters to the postoffice". (Members who pay their dues and unable to attend meetings are entitled to their copy of our newsletter).

How many of you read want-ads: namely merchandise or computers for sale? I did and saw ATARI 8-bit computers being sold. I dialed the numbers to notify those persons about our Jersey Atari Computer Club. One was a female reverend from Teaneck who explained sadly, "I wish you had called last week. The computer was sold because I did not know how to use it

nor did I understand the software. There was no one around to teach or help me.". She did take my number and passed it onto the person who bought her system.

Several days later I received a call from an eleven year old boy in River Vale who needed help with his new, used ATARI 8-bit computer, especially the ATARI 4.6f DOS that came with it. I helped him with some of his programs to get him started then investigated ATARI 4.6. Sam Cory had not heard of it and asked if we could get a copy in return for a library disk containing ATARI DOS 2.5 and some games. The lad agreed. A library disk was mailed. After receiving it, the boy called and over the phone I explained how to duplicate a disk using ATARI DOS J. He will mail the 4. DOS copy to me. It should prove interesting. The youngster wanted to attend our meeting but his parents would not let him drive the car.

Another person I called lives in Bergenfield. He is a programmer and said he was selling his ATARI because there was no help or support around here. He was surprised to learn about Jersey Atari Computer Group and avidly wrote down directions to our meeting. He came! (His co-workers had formed a mini ATARI group but it faded away. Now they know help and support is available at JACG).

Check want ads for people selling ATARI computers. Explain to them we do have ATARI support in our club (offer them a copy of our newsletter--we always have extras). If they sold their computer, perhaps they will pass our name (address rear cover) to the purchaser. If you feel uncomfortable calling, let me have the number and I'll call. My address and number on rear cover.

Tax time is upon us. If you have a tax program for the 8-bit let us see it at a demo or write an article.

I am seeking 8-bit mini-programs for meeting demos and articles in our newsletter. They must be no longer than one screen length--about 20 lines. If you prefer me to demo or include it in my article, mail it to me on a postal card or give it to me at next meeting. I prefer BASIC. It is the only computer language I know.

In the freebee box at the flea market was a 1027 printer that probably was good for parts. If you sent it to ATARI with \$75 it was replaced with a \$250. XDM121 daisy wheel printer. Some members said that ATARI will no longer supply 8-bit hardware. If XDM works with 16-bits perhaps ATARI still makes the exchange. It's worth a try. ATARI CORPORATION, Customer Service, Box 61657, Sunnyvale, CA 94088 (408) 745-2000.

My thanks to the many members who complimented my former Meeting Notes articles. I would like to continue but with only two eyes, two ears, two hands and able to write with only one pencil, I cannot cover or write about everything. My responsibility now is to the 8-bit VP column. Therein lies opportunity for you who need/want practice in writing and reporting. Describe a little something that happened at the meeting. Send it to Editor Dave on a postal card. In time you'll send two postal cards as you gain experience. That's how I started years ago before JACG. I sent postal cards to newspaper editors. I wasn't born with the ability to write lengthy articles. It took time and practice, practice, practice. If you want to be good at anything, achieve professionalism it takes practice, practice, practice.

In the meantime if you own an ATARI 8-bit, be proud, walk proud, talk proud. See you at JACG's March 14 meeting in the AT&T Bell Tell Labs Auditorium.

8 - BIT FEATURE

8 - BIT PD LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
by Sam Cory, 8-bit PD Librarian, JACG

Here is something to consider.
Call it LOST WAGES NOT LOS VEGAS.

This month I am presenting as DOM one wonderful file. Should glue you and your family to your computer for hours. It is RUN by the L option in DOS 2.0s, or 2.5 .

Solitaire

"This is a popular version of Canfield Solitaire. Canfield Solitaire is named after the proprietor of a famous gambling dive in Saratoga. This version is a cross between Canfield Solitaire and Klondike Solitaire. The game play is similar to Klondike, but the betting follows the guidelines of Canfield. The original game required buying a deck of cards for \$50 dollars. This version only costs ten points."

That quote is the Intro to the docs which are over 10 pages long. I have played this version for over 50 years. This is closest to the version played at MONTE CARLO I have seen as an ATARI Game. If you strictly follow the rules, I defy you to ever come out even especially if you play it frequently and keep scores. The gambling tables counted on this as the big money to keep their Casinos alive. People would bet thousands and play it for days in the hope of winning. There is a guaranteed return to the House just like slots, etc. What the quote doesn't tell you is the payout was \$5 a card. Makes you think you can win. Gee, all I have to do is get 11 cards a game and I win. HAH, HAH!

Now to the REAR. It is formless right now for two reasons. The file I really wanted to put here was AUTOCROSTICS. It flunked out. Just as I was ready to set up another REAR I learned Dave Arlington was leaving early and needed my column quick. It was not enough time for me to get the

backside done so I could itemize it here. I have one small file you will like. It puts 24 colors on the screen and rotates the colors randomly. I have another which allows printing front and rear of a sheet of paper. Thus, reducing your paper usage by 50%. For those of you who do not know of HAPPYXL find most of it on the back. This set of files speeds up HAPPY transfers. There are others to be added.

We have another sole 8-bit source not in New Jersey, but a good source. I needed a connecting board for the MIO to a 130XE. They had this in stock for the same price as ICD (\$20). They are TOAD COMPUTERS in Maryland. Best of all they have an 1-800-448-8623, FREE phone #. Give them a try.

TOAD COMPUTERS
556 BALTIMORE ANNAPOLIS BLVD
SEVERNA PARK, MD 21146

"We Buy, Sell, and Trade 8 bit computers". Support the still active ATARI community.

Kris Holtegaard still has his 8-bit system, but has despaired of any support for his BASIC PROGRAMMING. He has gone to IBM both as a system, and programming. He states IBM programming is much easier after what he learned in ATARI BASIC. Plus the bucks are there. Even though the Computer shows have scads of IBM FILES at \$2 a disk there is always a need for that particular application you can write. As a result he has released all his 8-bit files to the Public Domain. This means I have a few more disks for our PD Library. One of the biggest complaints Kris had is the same as mine. None of you want to support the 8-bit. I have pointed out in my columns many ways you could help the 8-bit. I have yet to receive ONE, THAT IS NADA response to my pleas. He asked many people for program ideas with the same response.

I just started reading our Exchange Newsletters. It is scary. So little about the 8-bit. Most clubs are

16-bit, and their Newsletters show it. Full of 16-bit information. The scary part is the financial reports. One club has \$50 in the treasury and owe about \$150. They expect to not be able to print their next Newsletter. Members are leaving the fold as fast as you people. If our renewals continue as they are we will be dead soon. (there goes DOOMSAYER Sam again). In spite of what I say, I have faith we will continue and get better.

16 - BIT FEATURE

THE SUPRA 52 HARD DRIVE A review by John H. Dean

Last fall my 20 megabyte SUPRA hard drive started acting up funny. No, not Ha Ha funny, but it was getting awfully noisy, and it seemed to be slowing down. From time to time, weird characters would show up in the file selector directories, or in the window boxes. It was time for a full backup, so off I went to my bunch of backup disks, zeroed them out (I use 828k format disks, and clean them with ZERODISK.PRG from Codehead) and started backing up with Turtle 3.2 (from the ST library disk 256). After I finished, I used Supra's MAP utility to check on bad sectors and found several. After I got the hard disk fully reformatted and all the bad sectors mapped out of circulation, I found I had about 17 megs of memory instead of 20. Now isn't that a good excuse to get a new Hard Drive?

Anyway, I started looking in the ads for the best buy in my price range, and finally settled on E. Arthur Brown of Alexandria MN. They offered a 52 Megabyte, 11 Millisecond, Assembled and Formatted Hard Drive for \$399.95! That was it for me.

When the drive arrived by Untied Parcel, I found it was in a specially designed shipping box, with foam protectors form fitted around it to

protect it from the hazards of shipping. OUT of the BOX and onto the DESK! The funny thing was that the drive box was the same size as the 20 Meg drive box - the only difference was it did not say 20 MB on the front of the box. Now to find out if the thing really worked.

Since it was already formatted, it was just a matter of plugging in all the cables, and off we go. Everything went smoothly enough, except I couldn't hear it! The lights came on O.K., so it was running - it was just so quiet it was unbelievable. But that was just the first surprise. It was loaded with PD programs! Some of them are PD or Shareware, but others are by Supra for the personal use of the purchaser only. One of the shareware programs is a logic game with various levels that looks interesting and may find it's way into the JACG disk library. (Monochrome only, unfortunately)

But, back to the Supra 52. Before now, I didn't know what FAST was. 11 milliseconds is so fast it seems faster than a ram disk. Shree Vanenberg tells me that the Quantum drive that Supra uses has a built in cache to make it move so fast. All I know is that I like it. The one thing that I did find out that I didn't like was that I could not access my floppy drives if the Hard Drive is not on. In order to run my system with floppies only, I have to disconnect the hard drive cable from the computer. I called Supra about this, but this is the way it is.

Oh, I almost forgot. On the rear of the case you not only have another DMA port, but a SCSI port! I'm hoping that this will prove useful if I get to the point where I will be using CD-ROM.

And best of all, Supra includes a two year warranty with thier drive. Try it, you'll like it!

CROSSWORD PUZZLES
by Ed Salvesen, JACG

I am writing a program (in BASIC) that will create a crossword puzzle on a graphics 8 screen.

Why, a graphics 8 screen?....Glad you asked!...

I need to represent each character in its full 8x8 glory and since the average crossword encompasses a larger grid than any other graphics mode can accomodate, I must rely on GR.8. Also, fortunately, my screen dump is for GR.8!

It has been suggested that I simply purchase a software program for crossword puzzles. I did! But those only allow you do create them on a SCREEN, not a printer and they are extremely limited as to what grids they will accomodate (certainly not like the one in January's newsletter).

It's a lot of work, but I should fit it into my time and have it by "SAFARI" day in June.

I need your (You! The membership!) help, though. I need feedback so I'll know if I'm wasting my time! Who, out there, even bothers with a crossword puzzle?

If there's no interest, even just to engender a comment, I won't bother; but let me pass on one bit of information:

Both my late parents enjoyed crossword puzzles and encouraged me to do them and I can say this with authority:

My vocabulary was more enhanced by doing crossword puzzles over the years than what I learned in schools. Really!

Now, I'm too cheap to buy them! Besides, the ones you buy are generally too elementary compared with those you find in the N.Y. Times, the Post, the Daily News, or even the Newark Star Ledger.

Perhaps, the easiest series of crosswords puzzles are in TV guide. With all the TV most people watch, it's not an ominous undertaking; and if you get stumped on a clue, it is generally the name of a character in a soap opera that you DON'T WATCH, so what's the harm?

CREATING them is a bit different; but if you show interest, then Dave Arlington will at least have a (semi-) regular newsletter column.

I'm waiting to hear....(Below is the answer grid for January)

DATA PADS ABUT
OPEN AGUE CASA
SORT RIME TRAP
MICROPROSE

A O C T
T DON TOS U
ADULT ANTIC
RADII GOADS
I EON ORR O
S U N N

STEPHENSON
ASTI ROXY DISK
POOL OPIE INRE
TYPE MITT NEON

Noise from Noyes

- D. B. Noyes, JACG

JACG BBS

Well, after having been down again, the board has been up for over a FULL week (some files had been corrupted...or some such software "glitch"). Perhaps when I finally get validated I'll be able to utilize the board.

GEMINI ENTERPRISES

What had been self-evident for some time now has become an outright fact. Our long time supporter in advertising (up to a couple of years ago); and our long time resource for ATARI software and hardware, has gone out of business. Two Saturdays ago they sold their remaining inventory (lock, stock, and barrel) to a single buyer. The handwriting, of course, had been on the wall for some time. First the reduction in hours, the "half-price" sales, and finally, the \$10.00 each for ANY software. It may have been exhilarating to be able to buy software for anywhere from ten to twenty-five cents on the dollar, but (at least to me, this was blunted by the sure knowledge that it did (and does) not bode well for the future of ATARI. We are now left with ONE retailer in the area.

To Bob and Sarah (owners of GEMINI) I wish nothing but success and happiness in their future endeavors, and I'm disappointed that there (evidently) was not a sufficient market base in northwestern New Jersey to support them.

FUTURE OF JACG

The demise of GEMINI, if taken out of context (with the REAL ATARI world), would seem to be just one (of many) business failures that occur daily (even discounting the current economic conditions). However, it is obvious to me that ATARI usage and support is waning. Look at the membership of the JACG. Look at it not only in the skimpy number of members, but in the even smaller core of those who do anything to

support the club beyond paying their dues, and (occasionally) coming to meetings. Look at the number of ATARI magazines available. Look at the declining number of ATARI mail-order resources available. Look at the massive (yuk, yuk) advertising done by ATARI Corporation in support of their products. It is no secret that when one speaks to anyone about computers, the initial understanding that one has is that the conversation is IBM PC/clone and MSDOS based. Speak to someone about ATARI and the images revolve around "PONG"! The few of us that benefitted from the "fire sale" prices at GEMINI may have made a "killing", but it ATARI that is dying. It is the "club" (JACG) that is dying. We all well on the way to becoming a SIG (Special Interest Group)...in fact, I wouldn't be a bit surprised if some clubs have SIGs larger in membership than the JACG.

Our membership has dropped in half in the last year, and is one tenth of what it was at its' largest. The club treasury is one half of what it was one year ago. We can't even get a full slate of executive officers out of the remaining membership! Add to the "brew" the abominable performance in the mailing of the newsletters, and in the maintenance of the BBS, and we may soon be on the verge of extinction!

KRIS HOLTEGAARD

As many of you may already be aware, Kris passed away last week as the result of a traffic accident. From what I have heard, although I have no verification, alcohol may have been involved (not on Kris's part) on the part of driver of the other vehicle; if that is so, it magnifies the wastefulness of the tragedy. Many of you will remember Kris, and his excellent presentations, his love of SPARTA DOS, his programming ability, his many programs, his exuberance, and his love of ATARI. I am sure we all will miss him.

ST LIBRARIAN'S REPORT FEBRUARY, 1992

D. B. Noyes - JACG

For the first two months of my tenure I made up a single Library Disk of the Month for each month (December, 1991, and January, 1992). Both of these were single-sided disks with the files being self-extracting from an archived form. The plus side of this format is that it gives more than a single side when extracted (25 to 50 percent more), and it accommodates those in our group who are ST owners, and who have only a single-sided disk drive. The down side of the format is that the files must first be extracted from the archived form (that is, one cannot simply "click and run"), and I can still get more "ready to run" on a double-sided disk than I can get from archived for self-extraction from a single-sided disk. Further, it is less labor intensive, and less prone to error. I am aware that there are a few (VERY FEW) single-sided drive only ST owners in the club, and they need to be accommodated.

This is my plan...From now on, for all FUTURE JACG Disk Library disks, I will provide "straight" files on double-sided disks. I will, for the month of the Disk of the Month, carry with me a couple of copies of the disk on two single-sided disks for those without a double-sided drive. Further, in following months, for those single-sided only owners, upon request, I will (the following month) provide the disks that they wish to purchase single-sided (from #266 on), on single-sided disks.

Further, I have noticed that simply making a poster of the Disk of the Month's contents generates ZERO ST disk sales. Additionally, spending time writing an article for the NEWSLETTER with the same information generates ZERO ST disk sales, in fact, at the December meeting, only one person approached the Library desk, and then only to get an updated disk listing! Kind of makes one think of, "Why bother?" From now on, I WILL demo, at the

meeting, SIGNIFICANT files from the Disk of the Month, and from other new disks being offered for the month. Not long, tortuous demonstrations, but enough to show the worth of the software. This (hopefully) should stimulate the need, and therefore, the sales!

For my part, I intend to provide at least two new disks each month, with one of them available at Disk of the Month prices. This, of course, can only hold as long as contributions and membership provide the environment. Don't forget, we are only sixty members, and it costs \$\$\$ to purchase the raw material (disks and labels), and it does not make much sense to produce disks simply to enlarge a library from which no one purchases disks.

If one is looking for something particular, SEE ME. We have books with file names and brief descriptions; and software with the same. I am willing to search the library. I am willing to download particular files (from GENIE or COMPUSERVE) for inclusion in a future disk. Every month I routinely download what I feel to be the "best" from these on-line information services, and I get additional disks of files from John Dean. If you don't see what you want...ASK.

My apologies for not making the last meeting, I was in Laredo, Texas on business, and did not return until that Saturday evening. Apologies again for the non-extractable FREEZE DRIED TERMINAL 2.10 on the Disk of the Month for January. It did not go into self-extracting mode properly. However, since no one bought it...so what! I have fixed all of the disks in the library, and they are again available for purchase at this (February, 1992) meeting. By the way...everyone should have this. It is an excellent terminal program; and it is highly recommended by none other than Bob Brodie, of ATARI. For the price of a library disk...it is well worth it, even if it were on the disk alone (and it isn't).

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